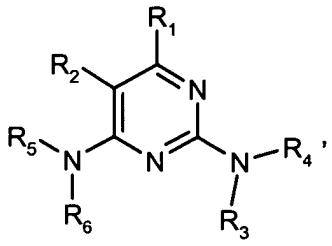
In the claims:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

22. **(currently amended)** A method for the antimicrobial treatment of a surface of a plastic, which method comprises contacting said surface of a plastic with a surface coating composition containing an antimicrobially effective amount of a 2,4-bis(alkylamino)pyrimidine of formula

(1) 

wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl or C_6-C_{10}aryl;

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl;

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl;

R_4 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_6alkylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, mono-C_1-C_6alkylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1-4}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1-4}-NH_2$;

R_6 is C_1-C_{20}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_6alkylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, mono-C_1-C_6alkylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1-4}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1-4}-NH_2$; or

R_3 and R_4 and/or R_5 and R_6 together form a pyrrolidine, piperidine, hexamethyleneimine or morpholine ring.

23. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_8alkyl or phenyl.

24. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_2 is hydrogen or C_3-C_8alkyl.

25. **(withdrawn)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl.

26. **(withdrawn)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_4 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$; and

R_6 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$.

27. **(withdrawn)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_8alkyl or phenyl;

R_2 is hydrogen or hexyl; and

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl;

R_4 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$; and

R_6 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$; or

R_3 and R_4 and/or R_5 and R_6 together form a pyrrolidine, piperidine, hexamethyleneimine or morpholine ring.

28. **(cancelled)**

29. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 22, wherein

R_1 is C_1-C_4alkyl or phenyl;

R_2 is hydrogen or hexyl

R_3 and R_5 are each independently of the other hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl;

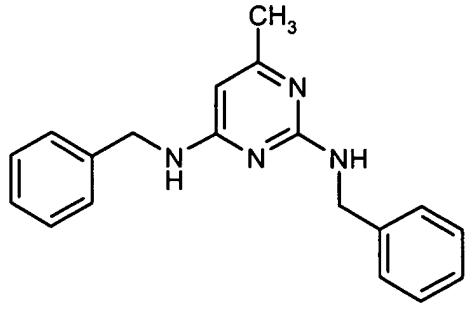
R_4 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl; hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$; and

R_6 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy-C_2-C_6alkyl, di-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, mono-C_1-C_4alkylamino-C_1-C_4alkyl, $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-OH$ or $-(CH_2)_2-(O-(CH_2)_2)_{1,2}-NH_2$; or

R_3 and R_4 together, and R_5 and R_6 together, form a pyrrolidine, piperidine, hexamethyleneimine or morpholine ring.

30. **(withdrawn)** A method according to claim 22, wherein R_3 and R_5, and R_4 and R_6, have the same meanings.

31. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 22, wherein the 2,4-bis(alkylamino)pyrimidine is of the formula



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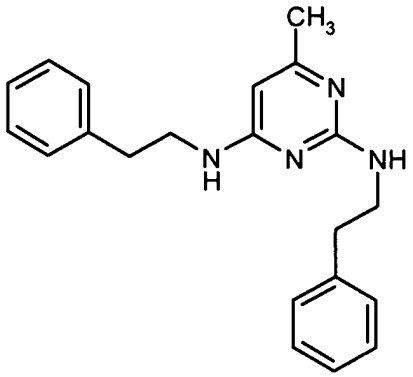

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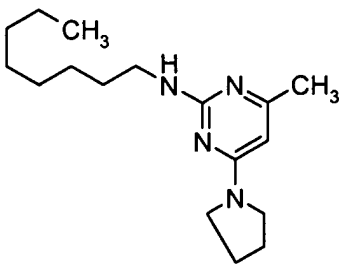

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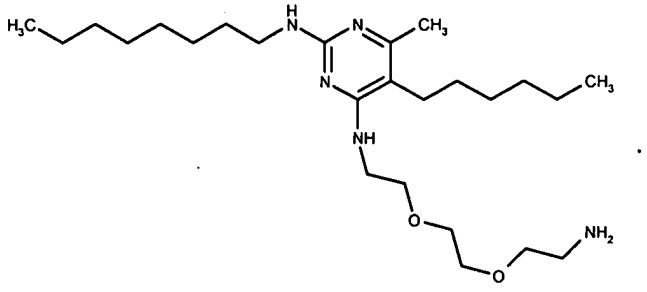

32-42. **(cancelled)**